

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-15, 17-19, 22-24, 28-30, 34-44 and 46-48 were pending in the application. Claims 7, 12, 28-30, 34-38, 43 and 48 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-19, 22-24, 39-42, 44, 46 and 47 are now pending and under consideration. No new matter is included in this Amendment.

The First 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection:

At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 11, 14 and 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,875,164 to Yamakawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,021,102 to Seto et al., U.S. Patent 6,119,262 to Chang et al. and U. S. Patent 5,699,434 to Hogan.

Claim 1 has been amended as set forth above to overcome the rejection. The invention, as claimed in amended claim 1, would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the references taken individually or in combination.

Claims 2-4 are deemed to be patentable at least for similar reasons set forth above regarding claim 1. Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 8 which has been amended to include the features of claim 7, thus claim 11 is deemed to be in allowable form. Claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 13 which has been amended to include the features of claim 12, thus claim 13 is deemed to be in allowable form. Claims 37 and 38 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus the rejection of claims 37 and 38 is moot.

The Second 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection:

At page 5 of the Office Action, claims 7, 10, 12, 15, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,875,164 to Yamakawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,021,102 to Seto et al. and U.S. Patent 6,119,262 to Chang et al.

Claims 7, 12 and 43 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus the rejection of claims 7, 12 and 43 is moot. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 8, which has been amended to depend from claim 8, which has been amended to include the features of claim 7, thus claim 10 is deemed to be in allowable form. Claim 15 has been

amended to depend from claim 13 and claim 13 has been amended to include the features of claim 12, thus claim 15 is deemed to be in allowable form.

The Third 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

At page 6 of the Office Action, claims 17, 22-24, 28-30, 34-36 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,875,164 to Yamakawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,119,262 to Chang et al. At page 6, line 13 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "[r]egarding claims 17, 22-23, 28-29, 34-35, and 46 Chang et al. discloses a preprocessor generating a clock ..." and in the last sentence of this rejection, the Examiner states "Please refer to the rejection of claim 1." In the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner referred to similar features as being disclosed in Yamakawa et al. and did not refer to any features disclosed in Chang et al. in the rejection of claim 1. Thus, the amendments and arguments in response to the rejection of claims 17, 22-23, 28-29, 34-35 and 45 are based on a belief that the Examiner intended to refer to Yamakawa et al. at page 6, line 13 of the Office Action. If such is not the case, it is respectfully requested that the Final Office Action be withdrawn and that the Applicant be permitted to respond accordingly.

Claims 17 and 22 have been amended as set forth above. The invention, as claimed in amended claims 17 and 22, would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the references taken individually or in combination.

Claims 23 and 24 are deemed to be patentable at least for similar reasons set forth above regarding claim 22.

Claims 28-30 and 34-36 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus, the rejection of claims 28-30 and 34-36 is moot.

Claim 46 has been amended as set forth above to overcome the rejection. The invention, as claimed in amended claim 46, would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the references taken individually or in combination.

The Fourth 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

At page 7 of the Office Action, claims 18 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,875,164 to Yamakawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,699,434 to Hogan.

Claim 18 is deemed to be patentable at least for similar reasons set forth above regarding amended claim 17 and claim 47 is deemed to be patentable at least for similar reasons set forth above regarding amended claim 46.

The Fifth 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

At page 9 of the Office Action, claims 19 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,875,164 to Yamakawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,021,102 to Seto et al.

Claim 19 is deemed to be patentable at least for similar reasons set forth above regarding amended claim 17. Claim 48 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus the rejection of claim 48 is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter:

At page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 39-42 and 44 are allowed and that claims 5, 6, 8, 9 and 13 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5, 8 and 13 have been amended to include the features of claims 1, 7 and 12, respectively, thus claims 5, 6, 8, 9, and 13 are deemed to be in allowable form.

Conclusion:

It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered as the amendment cancels rejected claims and amends other claims to be in allowable form. No claims are believed to be amended in a form which should require further search or consideration by the Examiner.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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